apparently let the cat among the pigeons by talking the other day about the Centre's preparedness to hold talks on the [illegible] for greater autonomy for Jammu a[illegible] if so, what actually he means by regio[illegible] autonomy;

(b) whether it is also a fact, tha[illegible] speculation about whether the Jam[illegible] intends to concede Farooq Abdulla[illegible] for a pre-1953 status and whether [illegible] ernment concede or deny this with co-gent explanation;

(c) whether it is a fact that any talk on autonomy can only be held between the elected representatives of the State and the Union, if so, wether Government would consider the above mentioned statement of the [illegible] Minister as uncalled for; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) to (d) Government has consistently reiterated its willingness for dialogue and discussions with any group or persons willing to cooperate towards creating conditions conducive to normalcy and peace and restoration of the democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir. In this context, Government is also carefully watching the developing debate at the political level and various ideas and suggestions that are being expressed. It would, however, be premature to say anything more in his respect at this stage.

Hurriyat's Terms for Taking part in Jammu Polls

2590. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Pioneer' dated 18th October, 1994 under the caption "Hurriyat's terms for taking part in Poll";

(b) if so, what are the details of terms announced in the All Parties Hurriyat Conference for participating in the election proposed to be held in Jammu and Kashmir;

(c) what is the reaction of Government of India in regard thereto; and

(d) what is the number of Hurriyat leaders who have since been released and the extent to which Kashmir problem has been solved as a result of the release of those leaders ?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) Under the Constitution and the Law, there are well established procedures and regulations for the conduct of elections in J & K, under the supervision of the Election Commission. In these circumstances, Government does not visualise any role for any external agency as mentioned in the report.

(d) Some of the prominent persons released in recent months include S/Shri S.A.S. [illegible], A.G. Lone, Yasin Malik and Shabir Shah. Together with various other measures taken by the Government, such releases have had a positive impact on the situation in the State.

Financial Assistance to Jammu and Kashmir

2591. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to provide finance to Jammu and Kashmir to tide over the cash crunch;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of prospects for advancing the grants;

(c) whether Government are aware that a large sum of money earmarked for development purposes such as maintenance of roads, drinking water facilities, was not spent on those works during the last three years and if so, whether Government propose to conduct an enquiry into the matter to ascertain the factual position in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether any machinery has been set up to monitor the Utilization of funds allocated for that State and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) and (b) In view of the difficult financial problems of the State, the Centre has allowed in October, 1994 additional special plan assistance of Rs. 773 crores to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir to meet the resource gap for the year 1994-95. Ministry of Finance has started releasing the amount of Rs. 773 crores of special assistance after making recovery of Rs. 668 40 crores due from the State Government towards loan repayment and interest payment to the Ministry of Finance. Approved plan outlay of Jammu & Kashmir for the year 1994-95 is Rs. 950 crores.

(c) and (d) There have been reports from time to time of alleged misuse of funds meant for development activities in the State. There is no proposal under consideraton of the Government for appointing any committee to conduct an across-the board inquiry into the allegations. Whenever specific complaints are received, appropriate inquiries are conducted, including inquiries by the Vigilance Department. The State Government have been advised to further strengthen and intensify activities of the Vigilance Department. Government of India has also conveyed its concern to the State Government that proper utilisation of funds should be ensured through close monitoring and supervison of works and enhanced accountability.

Depicting Jamm and Kashmir as Part of Pakistan

2592. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Kashmir is depicted in the World Map as part of Pakistan; if so, what action has been taken in this behalf;

(b) whether it is a fact that Education Minister of Kerala State published "Islamic Vishwa Vijnanakosara" (Islamic Encyclopaedia) which reportedly contains several objectionable entries like a World Map depicting Kashmir as part of Pakistan; and

(c) if so, what are the details of action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI : In the World Map printed in the Islamic Encyclopaedia in Malayalam (Islam Vignhana Kosham), Jammu & Kashmir has been shown as a region where Muslims are in majority comprising over 50% of the population. The present Education Minister of Kerala is understood to be a member of the Advisory Board under whose guidance the Islamic Encyclopaedia was prepared. The Central Government has written to the State Government of Kerala pointing out several objectionable observations made in the Encyclopaedia and asked them to take appropriate action under law.

Visit of Foreign Teams to Jammu and Kashmir

2593. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) how many foreign teams/official delegations/observers of United Nations visited Jammu and Kashmir State during 1994 till date, and held discussions with State Government officials, All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), migrants, etc.;

(b) what was the outcome of their discussions and whether such foreign teams conveyed their observations/feelings to Government of India in order to find some practical solutions to Kashmir crisis by bringing the two countries together to the negotiating table; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take or have taken so far to check increasing Pakistan's direct involvement in the secessionist war in Kashmir and raising Kashmir Issue in almost every International Forums/Conferences ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) According to information made available by the State Government, around 103 foreigners, including diplomats, parliamentarians, representatives of Human Rights and Humanitarian Groups, etc., visited the State during 1994 (till 30th November), and interacted with Government officials, representative of various political and other groups and individuals, and persons who have migrated from the Kashmir Valley;